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Watterson, Gene L. (1969)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

7-30-1989

Order of Service Rough Draft - July 30 1989 - Gene Watterson

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Order
of
Service

This Sunday, July 30, 1989, is a milestone for First Baptist Church and for our pastor. On this day, we will celebrate twenty years together. For two decades Dr. Gene L. Watterson's Christian leadership has guided First Baptist Church. These have been productive years filled with progress and Christian growth.

During Dr. Watterson's ministry here, over 650 have come to know the Lord as their Savior through baptism. Over 2,000 have joined the church by transfer of letter, statement, or through baptism.

During these twenty years, through Dr. Watterson's leadership, First Baptist has:

- Sponsored the Northside Baptist Church Mission.
- Contributed to the Sponsorship of the Christopher Road Baptist Church Mission.
- Given over \$2,000,000 to the Cooperative Program.
- Given over \$4,000,000 to total Mission Giving.
- Built the C. I. Dover Family Life Center (Activities Building)
- Renovated the Sanctuary.
- Renovated the Educational spaces in all church buildings.
- Seen the value of our church property increase to over \$4,000,000.

We have seen and been a part of new ministries begun under his leadership:

- The Keenager Ministry (for our Senior Adults).
- Sunday School for our Hearing Impaired and Interpretation at our Morning Worship.
- Internship Program for College Students, so that they might gain hands on experience in Christian service.
- The Deacon Family Ministry.
- Intercessory Prayer Ministry.
- T. V. Ministry to Shelby and Cleveland County through Cablevision.
- Northside Children's Center

Through his ministry, our pastor has served in offices on the local, state, and Southern Baptist Convention level.

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Locally he has served as Chairman of the Commission of Housing and Urban Redevelopment, as a member of the Human Relations Council, on the Board of Directors of the Boys Club, as a member of the Shelby Rotary Club, and on the Board of Trustees of the Christian Action League, and on committees for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association.

On the N. C. Baptist State Convention level, he has served as a member of the General Board of N. C. Baptists, on the Executive Committee, on the Council of Christian Life, and as President of the Council on Christian Higher Education. As First Vice-President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, he has represented First Baptist Church, not only statewide but nationwide through the Southern Baptist Convention. He has done so in an exemplary manner.

On the Southern Baptist Convention level, Dr. Watterson has served on the Executive Committee, on the Program and Budget Committee, the Business and Finance Committee, and the Audit Committee.

Through twenty years, he has touched our lives at times of sadness - during illnesses, at times of death, and when counselling has been needed. He has also been there for the happier times - during births, for baptisms, and for weddings. He has seen a generation of babies grow to adulthood. For many of you, Dr. Watterson is the only pastor you have ever known.

Congratulations on twenty years of service for our Lord at First Baptist Shelby! May there be many, many more!

Our Speaker, Dr. Jimmy Allen

Dr. Jimmy Allen is presently serving as President of Faith and Family Communications, Inc., of Fort Worth, Texas, which produces television programs for independent television systems. He was awarded an Emmy for the best special program in American Programming in 1989 for "China: Walls and Privileges," which was made for ABC T.V. Dr. Allen was Executive Producer for this program.

He is the immediate past President of the Radio and T.V. Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and past President of the Southern Baptist Convention. For twelve years, he served as Pastor of the 9,000 member First Baptist Church of San Antonio.

He is a member of the Board of National Religious Broadcasters and the founder of ACTS Cable Satellite Network. Dr. Allen, also, founded the Mission Service Corps for the Foreign Mission Board, while President of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dr. Allen is married and the father of three sons.